

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A framework for a construction enclosure system, comprising:

- a) a plurality of brackets adapted to be rigidly and removably attached to a structure under construction; and
- b) a plurality of rigid elongated frame members adapted to be fixedly retained by the brackets in a desired spatial relationship with an outer face of the structure, each frame member defining first and second substantially parallel channels extending respectively along first and second side regions thereof, each channel being adapted to slidably retain an edge portion of a sheet-like enclosure panel, wherein the edge portion has a greater thickness than a peripheral panel area extending therefrom; and
- c) a plurality of reinforcement members adapted to be secured against respective frame members to increase the rigidity of such frame members.

2. The framework of claim 1 wherein the reinforcement members are adapted to retain the respective frame members to the brackets.

3. The framework of claim 1 wherein each of the reinforcement members comprises a rigid elongated body adapted to be secured against a substantial length of at least one of the frame members.

4. The framework of claim 1 wherein at least one of the reinforcement members has a "C"-shaped cross-section.

5. The framework of claim 1 wherein at least one of the frame members comprises a pair of elongated bodies adapted to be retained in a mated configuration to cooperatively define the first and second channels.

6. The framework of claim 5 wherein a spacing distance between the mated elongated bodies is adjustable to provide a corresponding channel width.

7. The framework of claim 6 wherein the bodies are adapted to be mated by one or more fasteners extending through each body, and the channel width can be adjusted by adjusting at least one of the fasteners.

8. The framework of claim 5 wherein each body comprises a rigid plate.

9. The framework of claim 8 wherein the channels are defined by bends in one or both of the plates.

10. A construction enclosure system, comprising:

- a) a plurality of sheet-like enclosure panels each having a major surface and substantially parallel first and second edge portions, each edge portion having a greater thickness than a peripheral panel area extending therefrom;
- b) a framework, comprising:
  - i) a plurality of brackets adapted to be rigidly and removably attached to a structure under construction;
  - ii) a plurality of rigid elongated frame members adapted to be fixedly retained by the brackets in a desired spatial relationship with an outer face of the structure, each frame member defining first and second substantially parallel channels extending respectively along first and second side regions thereof, each channel being adapted to slidably retain one of said panel edge portions;

- iii) a plurality of reinforcement members adapted to be secured against respective frame members to increase the rigidity of such frame members.

11. The construction enclosure system of claim 10 wherein the reinforcement members are adapted to retain the respective frame members to the brackets.

12. The construction enclosure system of claim 10 wherein each of the reinforcement members comprises a rigid elongated body adapted to be secured against a substantial length of at least one of the frame members.

13. The construction enclosure system of claim 10 wherein at least one of the reinforcement members has a "C"-shaped cross-section.

14. The construction enclosure system of claim 10 wherein at least one of the frame members comprises a pair of elongated bodies adapted to be retained in a mated configuration to cooperatively define the first and second channels.

15. The construction enclosure system of claim 14 wherein a spacing distance between the mated elongated bodies is adjustable to provide a corresponding channel width.

16. The construction enclosure system of claim 15 wherein the bodies are adapted to be mated by one or more fasteners extending through each body, and the channel width can be adjusted by adjusting at least one of the fasteners.

17. The construction enclosure system of claim 14 wherein each body comprises a rigid plate.

18. The construction enclosure system of claim 17 wherein the channels are defined by bends in one or both of the plates.

19. A frame member for a construction enclosure system, the frame member comprising first and second elongated bodies adapted to be retained in a mated configuration to cooperatively define first and second substantially parallel channels and first and second slots communicating respectively with the first and second channels, the first and second slotted channels extending respectively along first and second side regions of the frame member, each slotted channel being adapted to slidably retain an edge portion of a sheet-like enclosure panel wherein the edge portion has a greater thickness than a peripheral panel area extending therefrom.

20. The frame member of claim 19 wherein a spacing distance between mated bodies is adjustable to provide a corresponding channel width.

21. The frame member of claim 20 wherein the bodies are adapted to be mated by one or more fasteners extending through each body, and the channel width can be adjusted by adjusting at least one of the fasteners.

22. The frame member of claim 19 wherein each elongated body comprises a rigid plate.

23. The frame member of claim 22 wherein the channels are defined by bends in one or both of the plates.

24. The frame member of claim 19 wherein each slot is defined between a side edge of the first body and an adjacent side edge of the second body.

25. The frame member of claim 24 wherein a spacing distance between mated bodies is adjustable to provide a corresponding slot width.

26. A frame member for a construction enclosure system, the frame member comprising first and second elongated bodies adapted to be retained in a mated configuration to cooperatively define a channel and a slot communicating with the

channel, the slotted channel extending along a first side region of the frame member and being adapted to slidably retain an edge portion of a sheet-like enclosure panel wherein the edge portion has a greater thickness than a peripheral panel area extending therefrom.

27. The frame member of claim 26 wherein a spacing distance between mated bodies is adjustable to provide a corresponding channel width.

28. The frame member of claim 27 wherein the bodies are adapted to be mated by one or more fasteners extending through each body, and the channel width can be adjusted by adjusting at least one of the fasteners.

29. The frame member of claim 26 wherein each elongated body comprises a rigid plate.

30. The frame member of claim 29 wherein the channel is defined by bends in one or both of the plates.

31. The frame member of claim 26 wherein the slot is defined between a side edge of the first body and an adjacent side edge of the second body.

32. The frame member of claim 31 wherein said adjacent first and second side edges have a divergent configuration adapted to reduce abrasive contact between said side edges and an enclosure panel slidably retained in the slotted channel.

33. The frame member of claim 31 wherein a spacing distance between mated bodies is adjustable to provide a corresponding slot width.

34. A plurality of brackets for a construction enclosure system, the brackets each comprising a base region and a mounting region, each base region being adapted to be rigidly and removably secured to a floor of a structure under construction, the mounting regions being adapted to fixedly retain a plurality of rigid elongated frame members in a

desired spatial relationship with an outer face of the structure while allowing the frame members to slidably retain a plurality of sheet-like enclosure panels, wherein the frame members each comprise a pair of elongated bodies retained in a mated configuration.

35. A method of at least partially enclosing a structure under construction, comprising:

- a) providing a construction enclosure system according to claim 10;
- b) rigidly and removably attaching the brackets to the structure;
- c) securing the reinforcement members against respective frame members to increase the rigidity of such frame members, thereby defining reinforced frame members;
- d) rigidly securing the reinforced frame members to the brackets such that the reinforced frame members are fixedly retained in a desired spatial relationship with an outer face of the structure; and
- e) positioning at least one of the enclosure panels between a pair of the reinforced frame members such that the first edge portion is slidably retained in one of the channels in a first reinforced frame member of the pair and the second edge portion is slidably retained in one of the channels in a second reinforced frame member of the pair.

36. A structure constructed by a method comprising:

- a) providing a construction enclosure system according to claim 10;
- b) rigidly and removably attaching the brackets to the structure;
- c) securing the reinforcement members against respective frame members to increase the rigidity of such frame members, thereby defining reinforced frame members;

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- d) rigidly securing the reinforced frame members to the brackets such that the reinforced frame members are fixedly retained in a desired spatial relationship with an outer face of the structure; and
- e) positioning at least one of the enclosure panels between a pair of the reinforced frame members such that the first edge portion is slidably retained in one of the channels in a first reinforced frame member of the pair and the second edge portion is slidably retained in one of the channels in a second reinforced frame member of the pair.
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